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## Identical letters dated 24 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 23 October 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 1 to 11 October 2001 they carried out 165 hostile sorties, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia, 39 from Kuwait and 60 from Turkey, as shown in the statement enclosed with the letter. On 2 October such aircraft fired missiles at an Iraqi site in the south of the country. On 3 October they fired missiles at two Iraqi sites in Basrah Governorate, killing two citizens, wounding a number of Iraqi civilians and destroying many civilian installations.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He states that Iraq reserves its right, as established by the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to defend itself against this ongoing hostile, terrorist activity. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this persistent aggression and ensuring that it does not recur and to charge its perpetrators and the regional parties that associate themselves with it with full legal responsibility in its regard.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the identical letters dated 24 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that the United States of America and the United Kingdom have continued their aerial aggression against Iraq and that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Turkey have also continued to provide logistic facilities for this aggression. United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have thus continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They flew 165 armed sorties in the period from 1 to 11 October 2001, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia, 39 from Kuwait and 60 from Turkey, as shown in the statement enclosed herewith. On 2 October such aircraft fired missiles at an Iraqi site in the south of the country. On 3 October they also fired missiles at two Iraqi sites in Basrah Governorate, killing two citizens, wounding a number of Iraqi civilians and destroying many civilian installations.

The enforcement by the United States and the United Kingdom of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq is an internationally unlawful act and a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the established norms of international law. It constitutes an illegal use of armed force against the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq, and it is to be regarded as an ongoing act of aggression such as accords with the Definition of Aggression approved by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974.

Most of the world's countries have condemned the maintenance of the no-flight zones as representing an illegitimate use of force against an independent State. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali has stated that the claim that the Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq authorize the imposition of the no-flight zones is groundless. At his press conference of 27 June 2001, Mr. Kofi A. Annan also affirmed this fact. Nevertheless, the United States and the United Kingdom, with logistic support provided by Turkey and with both logistic support and funding provided by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, are persisting undeterred in their contempt for the Charter of the United Nations and international law and are engaging in this cowardly terrorist aggression against Iraqi civilians and against Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

The attacks being launched by United States and British aircraft on Iraqi towns and villages and on structures that are basic to life in the country, including health-care and educational establishments and houses of worship, constitute blatant State terrorism that has now been practised for 10 years and has caused the deaths of thousands of Iraqi citizens and left tens of thousands of others injured and has brought about the destruction of vital amenities and infrastructure. That the United Nations, the Security Council and you yourself should remain mere spectators in the presence of this aggression and this blatant State terrorism against Iraq raises serious questions about the credibility of the United Nations and about its capacity to apply the norms of the Charter to all without distinction and without the use of double standards.

The Government of Iraq considers that the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and the countries that associate themselves with this

terrorist aggression, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, should bear full responsibility for their illegal actions. It affirms Iraq's established right under the Charter of the United Nations and international law to exercise its legitimate right to defend itself against this ongoing hostile, terrorist activity. It further urges you to perform the duties assigned to you as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security, to call upon the governments of the countries in question to halt their continuing aggression against Iraq and to charge those committing the aggression and the regional parties collaborating with it, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, with full legal responsibility for it.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

## Enclosure

### Violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq by United States and British warplanes, 1-11 October 2001

1. In the northern region 60 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1205 hours on 1 October 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from a base in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1130 hours on 2 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Dokan, Irbil, Aqrah and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1130 hours on 3 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Baibo, Zakho, Aqrah, Dohuk, Irbil and Fadiliyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1135 hours on 8 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Irbil, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Dohuk and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 105 armed sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1455 hours on 2 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 11 armed sorties, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and three from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah and Qurnah areas. The United States and British aircraft fired missiles at one of our units in southern Iraq. Our air defences, acting in exercise of

the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1640 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1425 hours on 3 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Dayr, Qurnah, Busayyah, Lasaf, Salman and Taqtaqanah areas. The United States and British aircraft fired missiles at two Iraqi sites in Basrah Governorate, killing two citizens, wounding a number of Iraqi civilians and destroying many civilian installations. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1645 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1705 hours on 4 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 armed sorties, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and three from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Busayyah, Jalibah, Ashbajah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1830 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1300 hours on 5 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 armed sorties, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and five from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1515 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1345 hours on 6 October 2001, United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out nine armed sorties from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Busayyah, Salman, Ashbajah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1535 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1155 hours on 8 October 2001, United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi

airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out two armed sorties from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Salman and Nasiriyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1445 hours on 9 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 15 armed sorties, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and five from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Salman, Ma'aniyah, Lasaf, Artawi, Busayyah, Shinafiyah, Jalibah and Basrah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1630 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 1328 hours on 10 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 11 armed sorties, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and one from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Ashbajah, Ma'aniyah and Samawah South areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1440 hours, drove them off.

(i) At 1410 hours on 11 October 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out seven armed sorties, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and one from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1625 hours, drove them off.